

T E X A S
JUVENILE JUSTICE
D E P A R T M E N T

Executive Director's **report**

November 2012



Executive Team Introductions

I'm pleased to announce that two outstanding juvenile justice professionals have joined the agency in senior director positions. Teresa Stroud, who formerly served as the superintendent of the Ron Jackson facilities, will become our Senior Director for State Programs and Facilities. James Williams, who currently serves as the Chief Juvenile Probation Officer for the 35th Judicial District in Brown County, will become our new Senior Director of Probation and Community Services.

James Williams has been a juvenile probation officer with Brown County since 1983 and has served as the Chief Juvenile Probation Officer since 1986. He is active in numerous professional and civic organizations, is currently a member of the Brown County Hospital Authority and is on the invited faculty of the Correctional Management Institute at Sam Houston State University. He also served 12 years on the board of the Brownwood Independent School District, three of those years as president, and as a former member of the Texas Probation Association. As a result of his lengthy tenure as a chief juvenile probation officer, has established relationships with nearly all 165 Texas juvenile probation departments and juvenile justice practitioners statewide. James was an active participant with the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission throughout his career and served as the agency's Chief in Residence in 2010. He is a graduate of Howard Payne University.

Teresa Stroud is rejoining our agency from Eckerd Youth Alternatives, where she has served as the Operations Director since July 2011. In that position, she has been responsible for leadership of multiple programs for at-risk youth and families in a variety of states. From 2009 to 2011, she was Eckerd's Texas Area Director. Teresa served with the former Texas Youth Commission, beginning in 1997 when she joined the agency as a youth rights specialist. In 1999, she became a program administrator at the Al Price facility in Beaumont before her promotion to assistant superintendent at Ron Jackson (2002) and ultimately the superintendent's position in 2006. Teresa had previously served as a child-care investigator for the Texas Department of Family Protective and Regulatory Services, a case manager for Life Resources, Inc., youth director for North End Baptist Church in Beaumont, and as a counselor at Sky Ranches, Inc. Teresa is a graduate of East Texas Baptist University and received her master's degree from Stephen F. Austin State University.

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Staff Transition

Laura Cazabon, our superintendent at the Corsicana facility, is leaving the agency today after more than 15 years of service to our youth. Laura joined the former TYC straight out of college as an associate psychologist at the Crockett State School. During her tenure, she grew into increasing responsible positions, serving as a program specialist at Corsicana, superintendent of the Willoughby Halfway House, and superintendent at Mart and finally Corsicana. Laura has a passion for helping those most in need and that has been reflected in her excellent service for our agency. I wish her well as she assumes a new Director position for the Department of Aging and Disability Services in El Paso.

Request for Proposal for Specialized Residential and Non-Residential Services

The agency is planning on releasing a state-wide Request for Proposal to solicit contracts to provide specialized services for youth needing either residential or community support care. We hope to expand resources for both TJJD secure care residents and allow counties needing additional services to augment the state agreements for services.

Texas Department of Criminal Justice Site Reviews

TDCJ officials were asked to review our secure facilities to offer suggestions on safety and security improvements. TDCJ personnel have already visited several of the institutions and expect to conduct all of their reviews by the end of the year.

Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments

We have met with TCOOMMI to enhance the re-entry process for youth with mental health issues. We are working to ensure that youth and their community mental health providers are establishing relationships weeks prior to release rather than having their first meeting occur after release.

8th Annual Strengthening Youth and Families Conference

TJJD & Prairie View A&M co-hosted the 8th Annual Strengthening Youth & Families conference, which brought resource organizations, families, TJJD personnel, volunteers and county juvenile probation officers together in an effort to develop integrated approaches to rebuilding families of at-risk youth.

Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)

Agency personnel are participating in the "Comprehensive Approach to Promote Sexual Safety for Youth" (CAPSSY) program, which is funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice. Agency personnel participated in the first of a series of Leadership Initiative Trainings to continue to build on the culture of sexual safety within our facilities.

On October 22, 2012, TJJD applied to participate in a regional training entitled *Human Resources and Administrative Investigation* sponsored by the Project on Addressing Prison Rape, American University, Washington College of Law and was accepted. Our team, which consists of TJJD staff members Jerome Williams (PREA Coordinator), Kevin Dubose (Director of Administrative Investigations) and Scott Friedman, (Manager of Monitoring and Inspections) will be attending this regional training on December 3-5, 2012 in Washington, DC. The objectives for this training include:

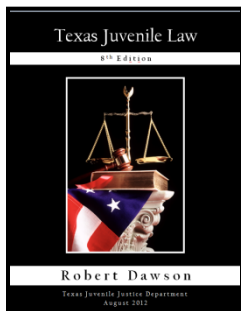
- 1) review the PREA Standards and identify impacts on administrative investigations and human resources;
- 2) identify components of investigative and human resource policies and procedures as they relate to sexual abuse of persons in custody; and
- 3) understand legal and investigative implications and strategies to responding.

Lisa Capers, Senior Director of Administration and Training will be attending this regional training and serving as a guest faculty member of American University, Washington College of Law's Project on Addressing Prison Rape.

Stay tuned...

TJJD and our new Juvenile Justice Training Academy will be hosting an intensive 2.5 day training in January for juvenile probation departments in Texas. This training will focus on analyzing the new juvenile PREA standards and helping counties formulate an action plan to facilitate implementation of these new standards. TJJD suggests that county teams attend including the Chief, Facility Administrator, PREA Coordinator, and any QA/Policy/HR staff or any combination of staff that you choose who will be relevant to PREA implementation. TJJD will forward additional details as soon as they are available.

Texas Juvenile Law, 8th Edition



We are pleased to announce that *Texas Juvenile Law*, 8th Edition, will be released in late December. This important legal publication has served as an essential reference manual on juvenile law in Texas for nearly 30 years. As the first publication of the new TJJD, we are proud that we have been able to continue the tradition of making Volume I and II available to juvenile probation departments, prosecutors, courts, juvenile boards, and other selected entities.

If your department would like to order additional copies of the juvenile law book, please download and print the order form online at www.tjjd.texas.gov or you may contact TJJD's Juvenile Justice Training Academy at 512.424.6707.

Employee Recognition

TJJD employee, Holli Fenton, has been nominated for the "Outstanding Women in Texas Government" award. Ms. Fenton began her career at TJJD in 2004 as a case manager. In 2008, she began taking Ron Jackson youth to the Corrine T. Smith Animal Center in Brownwood for community service and she conceived the idea of pairing shelter canines with student trainers. This initiative was the genesis of the PAWS program, which is proving to be an exceptional treatment initiative for TJJD youth.

Joint Senate Education and Criminal Justice Hearing

On October 30, agency personnel presented information regarding the state's Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Programs to the Senate Criminal Justice and Education Hearing on Interim charges. Legislators were supportive of the alternative education services provided to counties by this program.

Denton County Sheriff's Office - Juvenile Impact Program Wins National Recognition

The Denton County Sheriff's Office - Juvenile Impact Program (JIP) was chosen the 2012 Program of the Year at the 102nd annual convention of the International Association for Truancy and Dropout Prevention held in New Orleans October 21-24.

The program consists of a 4-hour class for juveniles and their parents acquainting them with the criminal justice system, divided into male and female sections. The participants are instructed about prison and actually hear incarcerated juvenile offenders tell their stories. *Youth from TJJD Willoughby House and McFadden Ranch are regular presenters for the classes.* The parents are taught new techniques to deal with their children's behavior and provided additional resources.

The purpose of the program is to educate first-time juvenile offenders and at-risk youth of Denton County about the consequences of illegal behavior. Two-thirds of every class is comprised of truancy-related offenses, and many have been runaways or disruptive in school, but are not yet in the juvenile justice system.



Juvenile Interstate Data System (JIDS)

On Monday November 5, 2012, the Interstate Compact for Juveniles (ICJ) National Office launched the Juvenile Interstate Data System (JIDS) for use by all compacting states to process and track requests for juvenile supervision through the ICJ. The Texas ICJ office is currently using this new system and integrating it into their daily operations. It is the goal of the Texas ICJ office to identify Texas probation and parole staff to train to become JIDS users and liaisons for their respective departments. This will allow probation and parole departments to receive and send ICJ cases directly through the JIDS system to the Texas ICJ office. It is anticipated that this will reduce the time needed to process ICJ cases for supervision and save agency resources by reducing the amount of mail and fax activity previously required to send information through ICJ. The target date for integrating the county probation and TJJD parole staff as JIDS users is the first quarter of 2013.

Phoenix Program Update

Population: Ten youth are currently assigned and 2 youth are pending graduation. Several youth agency wide are awaiting hearings and evaluation for admission.

Overall 18 youth have been admitted to Phoenix since it was opened in July 2012. Three youth from Evins and five each from Giddings, Gainesville and Mart. Eleven youth have graduated the program. One youth was transferred to prison on charges he received prior to his admission to Phoenix.

Although the youth who have graduated from Phoenix have not been without incident since returning to main campuses throughout TJJD, only one youth has committed an assaultive act since his return to general programming. This is a vast improvement to their behavior prior to entering Phoenix. A recent review of worker's compensation claims for youth in Phoenix shows that youth admitted to Phoenix have cost over \$50,000 in worker's compensation for staff assaults prior to admission to the unit.

TJJD Retirees

The following staff members have recently retired or announced their upcoming retirement from the Texas Juvenile Justice Department. On behalf of the agency, we would like to extend our sincerest gratitude and appreciation for their dedication, support and service over the years.

<i>Staff Name</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Years of Service</i>	<i>Retirement</i>
Margaret Eason	Juvenile Correctional Officer IV	Giddings	27 Years	September
Donal Irvin	Juvenile Correctional Officer IV	Giddings	29 Years	September
Anthony Francis Sr.	Juvenile Correctional Officer IV	Giddings	28 Years	October
Nina Tucker	Juvenile Correctional Officer V	Giddings	20 Years	October
Debra Slocum	Juvenile Correctional Officer IV	Ron Jackson	12 Years	October
Alan Walters	Deputy Director of Youth Services	Central Office	27 Years	November
Diane Irvin	Clerk IV	Cottrell House	18 Years	November
Ruby Stafford	Human Resource Specialist II	McLennan County	23 Years	November
Phillip Williford	Case Manager III	Gainesville	16 Years	November
Julia Taylor	Food Service Manager I	McFadden Ranch	11 Years	November